

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1297

By Bone

A RESOLUTION honoring those members of the Tennessee National Guard killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety, concerns, and lives to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave this state its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, the names of the fourteen Guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice for their community, their State, and their Nation now come to the fore; and

WHEREAS, thousands of members of the Tennessee National Guard have served during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a group that has served as both vanguard and protector of the noblest qualities of the citizen soldier, chief among them the willingness to lay down one's life in service to one's country; and

WHEREAS, when the roll of this State's bravest citizens is read, the following names will ring with clarity: Sergeant Roger D. Rowe of Bon Aqua, Sergeant Gary Lee Reese, Jr., of Ashland City, Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III of Talbot, Staff Sergeant Mark O. Edwards of Unicoi, Sergeant Alfred Barton Siler of Duff, Specialist James Dustin Carroll of McKenzie, Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt of Sweetwater, Sergeant First Class Stephen C. Kennedy of Oak Ridge, Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker of Hilham, Staff Sergeant Nathan J. Bailey of Nashville, Staff Sergeant Victoir Patric Lieurance of Seymour, Sergeant Shannon D. Taylor of Smithville, Staff Sergeant David L. Loyd of Jackson, and Staff Sergeant Asbury F. Hawn of Lebanon; for these fourteen soldiers gave their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a sacrifice that shall never be forgotten by grateful state and nation; and

WHEREAS, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, these gallant men have given their lives on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation; and

WHEREAS, their courageous service and sacrifice stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics which have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to these fourteen members of the Tennessee National Guard, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the fullest extent of our ability, as they each made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, Sergeant Gary Lee Reese, Jr., Sergeant Paul W. Thomason III, Staff Sergeant Mark O. Edwards, Sergeant

Alfred Barton Siler, Specialist James Dustin Carroll, Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt, Sergeant First Class Stephen C. Kennedy, Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker, Staff Sergeant Nathan J. Bailey, Staff Sergeant Victoir Patric Lieurance, Sergeant Shannon D. Taylor, Staff Sergeant David L. Loyd, and Staff Sergeant Asbury F. Hawn, recognize the heroic sacrifices each of these members of the Tennessee National Guard made in support of their nation, and praise, without hesitation or reservation, the bravery, determination, and fortitude of the men and women serving in the Tennessee National Guard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our most heartfelt condolences to the families of these fourteen National Guardsmen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.